

CONGRESS STARTS IN TO-DAY

NOT MUCH LIKELY TO BE ACCOMPLISHED
THIS WEEK.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE EXPECTED TO-DAY-
WORK CUT OUT FOR THE COMMITTEES-
MUCH INTEREST IN THE QUESTION
OF ANNEXING HAWAII.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The long session of Congress, as it is called, because there is no con-

stitutional limitation on the period of its duration, opens at noon to-morrow. The leaders and a large majority of the members of both houses are here to participate in the opening ceremony, and President McKinley has been the journeyman from the bedside of his dying mother that his absence might not delay the National legislature at its assembling.

The extra session rolls the opening of the regular session of the excitement and interest which usually attach to it. On the eve of a regular session ordinarily Washington thrills with excitement. The hotel lobbies surge with place-hunters in the wake of the various candidates for Speaker, clerk, doorkeeper, etc.; the members are struggling for committee assignments, and the air is full of rumors of plots and counterplots. But as the House was completely organized at the extra session and all the committee assignments were made then, beyond the natural stimulus produced by the returning statesmen, the regular hangers-on of legislation and the outlining of schemes by members of the "third house," or lobby, Washington to-night is tranquil.

very simple, and beyond the spectacular show which it offers to the curious has in itself little attraction. The House will be called to order by the Speaker, who, after the chaplain's invocation, will order the clerk to call the roll. This having been accomplished and the presence of a quorum demonstrated, the clerk will be directed to notify the Senate that the House is ready for business and the Senate will be appointed to wait on the President. After this the House will be called to await the arrival of the President's annual Message, which will be read under its reception, and be followed by an adjournment until Tuesday. This is the regular routine, and, unless something unforeseen oc-

RAPID WORK EXPECTED IN THE HOUSE.

It is the intention of the House leaders to proceed with the business of the session as rapidly as possible. The committee men will begin their labors this week, and all of them have bills on hand which will be introduced at the extra session. There will be no lack of material for the House to work on after the committee-hoppers have begun to grind. The Appropriations Committee has been at work for ten days, and Chairman Cannon expects to pass at least two of the regular budgets—the Legislative, Executive and Judicial and the Pension appropriation bills—before the holidays. One or the other of these

day, and the end of the week promises to see the House down to business.

Among the early general measures to receive consideration will be the Bankruptcy bill. Whether it will be the Nelson bill, which passed the Senate at the last session, or a modification of the Torrey bill, depends on the temper of the Judiciary Committee, which will submit the measure to the House. Beyond doubt there will be several resolutions of inquiry during the first week, which may be more or less sensational, and some of the radical pro-Cuba members will attempt to get consideration for a Cuban resolution before the Foreign Affairs Committee. Another resolution before the Foreign Affairs Committee is one

of these. But, owing to the nature of the House rules, all these hasty efforts will prove abortive, and they probably will take their regular course.

There will be nothing except indisposition on the part of members to prevent the Senate entering promptly on its work upon convening to-morrow, as there is a calendar ready made for it, with about three hundred bills reported from committees during the special session. If any circumstance should prevent the receipt of the President's Message to-morrow the probabilities are that the Senate would adjourn over without taking up any other business until the Message could be received.

HAWAII TO BE CONSIDERED EARLY.

With the Message read, it will remain for

the Senate to decide whether to continue upon the work of the session after Monday, or begin a system of delay intended to throw all important questions over beyond the Christmas holidays. The indications are now for a little more activity than usual during the pre-holiday session. This is largely due to the fact that the supporters of the Administration and other advocates of annexation are very anxious to secure the earliest possible consideration of the treaty with Hawaii. Senator Davis

chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, announces his purpose of pressing annexation at the earliest possible moment, but it is probable that the matter will not be taken up until the committee can have a meeting.

One point which the committee will be called on to decide is whether to proceed to ratify the treaty of annexation or to annex the islands by resolution. The annexationists have lost some votes during the vacation, and there is now apprehension that the two-thirds vote necessary to assure the ratification cannot be secured. No

satisfactory canvass is possible until all the Senators arrive, and if it is then made manifest that the necessary two-thirds vote cannot be secured it is likely that the proceeding by means of a convention which would require only a ma-

majority vote, will be inaugurated. Some members of the Foreign Relations Committee who favor annexation advocate this course, because they say they see no reason for traversing the same ground twice, as they would be compelled to do in case the matter should be first considered in executive session, fail there and then be taken up in the form of a resolution in open Senate

IMMIGRATION AND OTHER BILLS.

The Immigration bill, for which Senator Lodge stands sponsor, is practically at the head of the parade and will be consid-

The first bill on the calendar is Senator Gear's measure providing for the adjustment of the

Of the three hundred bills on the calendar about two hundred are private pension bills, and all of these probably will be disposed of at one

It is not probable that much will be done in the way of legislation during the present week. There will be an adjournment for the day after receiving the Message on Monday, and, as there is no disposition to press the Hawaiian matter before the Relations Committee again on

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